



NEW JERSEY
WEEKLY CROP WEATHER

New Jersey
Agricultural Statistics Service

In Cooperation With:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.
Rutgers University

NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

Allentown
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
Atlantic City
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
New York City
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.
Philadelphia
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS

Vineland
Phone: (856)691-0721
Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.
Landisville
Phone: (856)697-2273
Direct Sales Daily
Swedesboro
Phone: (856)476-0313
Hightstown
Phone: (609)448-0193
Auction Sales Mon-Wed-Fri-7pm

Rainfall amounts, none through Tuesday.

Winds for spraying, northeast around 10 mph today, east 5 mph tonight, northeast 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent, 40 to 50 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday.

Dew points, near 60 today, upper 50s tonight, low 50s Tuesday.

Drying conditions, good today, good Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew, heavy dew tonight and Tuesday night.

Percent of possible sunshine, 50 today, 60 Tuesday.

There is a near zero percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.

Hay cutting is recommended for today with one of the better haying periods of the season expected through the week.

Estimated soil moisture in percent of field capacity is decreasing and the need for irrigation will increase as the week progresses with no rain expected before Saturday.

Weather conditions do not appear favorable for the occurrence of cranberry scald today but may be favorable Tuesday.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period September 15, 2003 to September 21, 2003 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to total below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 09/08/03

Temperatures averaged near normal. Extremes were 84 degrees at Seabrook and Cape May Courthouse on September 3, 2003, and 43 degrees at Charlotteburg on September 7, 2003.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.92 inches north, 1.81 inches central, and 0.98 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.91 inches at Toms River on September 4, 2003 through September 5, 2003.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 96 percent north, 91 percent central, and 77 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 66 degrees north, 69 degrees central, and 73 degrees south.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 AM MONDAY 09/08/03

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week						
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
- Inches -										

*Departure from normal.
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, total and departure from normal or long term average.
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 4.5. Temperatures were variable across the state with measurable amounts of rainfall received during the week. Top soil moisture was rated 85% adequate and 15% surplus. Activities during the week were harvesting fruit and vegetables, re-seeding pasture and hay fields, harvesting corn silage, and applying pesticides and herbicides sprays. Wet weather conditions continued to hinder hay harvest activities in many localities. Disease pressure on most vegetable crops were high due to wet weather conditions. Some tomato fields had late blight infestation and cracked fruit. Worm pressure was high in some cabbage fields in southern portions of the state. Tuber discoloration and stem end rot was reported in some potato fields. Planting of fall lettuce continued in southern localities. Peach harvest continued in the south with the crop condition rated mostly good. Available pasture forage supplies continued to be plentiful in most localities.

	SOIL MOISTURE TABLE		
	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	0%	7%
SHORT	15%	13%	49%
ADEQUATE	85%	87%	44%
SURPLUS	0%	0%	0%

	RANGE AND PASTURE		
	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	0%	10%	47%
FAIR	27%	22%	53%
GOOD	73%	68%	0%
EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

Acorn Squash – Good quantity and quality available.

Beets – Good quantity and quality available.

Butternut Squash – Fair to good quantity of good quality available.

Cabbage – Savoy, Green, and Red varieties being seen in good quantity and quality.

Collards – Fair to good quantity of good quality available. Volume is starting to pick up with the cooler fall weather.

Cucumbers – Fair to good quantity and good quality product available. Volume is starting to pick up again with the cooler fall weather.

Eggplant – Good quantity and quality available.

Escarole & Endive – Though a few growers have started picking some minor quantities, expect to wait a couple of weeks for volume.

Greens – Fair to good quality and quantity of Kholrabi, Kale, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard with the warm temperatures. Volume is starting to pick up again with the cooler fall weather.

Herbs – Fair quantity and quality for Cilantro. Good volume and quality for Dill, Parsley, and Arugula. Baby Arugula, Basil, Mustard, and Mint all have excellent quality with good quantity.

Italian Eggplant – Fair to good quantities and good quality available. Whites also available in fair volume.

Leeks – Good quantity and quality available.

Nectarines – The beautiful Fantasia variety is finishing up and will be available through the middle of the month.

Peaches – Growers are seeing excellent quality, color, flavor and size. This will continue through September and into early October. Cresthaven variety peaches are finishing up as Jersey Queen and Jersey Glo are being harvested in volume. We’re just starting to pick Encore varieties with Laurol still to be picked.

White peaches are available in good quantities with the Lady Nancy and Sugar Giant varieties finishing up. Snow Giant will be our late season variety starting next week and continuing through the end of the month. The new white peach varieties have the look and flavor that consumers desire and the shelf life that allows you to get the peaches to them. Let’s continue to eat peaches through September.

Peppers - Good quality and fair to good quantity available.

Pickles – Fair to good quantity and good quality product available. Volume and quality are starting to pick up with the cooler fall weather.

Pumpkins – The cool and wet spring caused late planting this year and a light fruit set as well. We’ll probably have 20-30% less supply this year with wholesale prices expected to be proportionately higher. Know your pumpkin grower. With all of this summer’s wetness, growers who stuck to their spray schedules seem to have excellent quality this year while growers who didn’t, don’t.

Sweet Corn – The latter stages of our season. Though we still have a good quantity of quality corn available, there is great deal more variability in quality after Labor Day due to fall insect pressures.

Tomatoes – It’s been a tough season for tomatoes as constant rain and humidity has caused problems with fruit set (a late and lighter set) and some disease causing conditions. Recent drier weather has allowed for some beautiful late season product to mature.

Turnips – Good volume and quantity available.

White Potatoes – Good quantity and quality of slightly smaller potatoes through mid-October.

Yellow Squash – Good quality and fair to good quantity available. Volume is starting to pick up now that cooler Fall temperatures have arrived.

Zucchini - Good quality and fair to good quantity available. Volume is starting to pick up a bit now that cooler fall temperatures have arrived.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Broccoli - Look for harvest to begin the first week of October.

Brussel Sprouts - Look for harvest to begin the first week of October.

Cauliflower – Look for harvest to begin the first week of October.

Lettuces – Look for harvests of Romaine to begin next week with Boston following closely. Iceberg lettuce will be available in early October.

Sweet Potatoes – Should begin to become available in volume by next week.

